

I am writing to ask that you reject the NAB petition 04-160. XM radio is a great service for commuters stuck in long lines of traffic and for those who are not serviced by traditional broadcast outlets. In today's world of big media companies making the programming decisions in multiple markets the needs of many listeners are simply not being met. The number of formats has been reduced and, even where available, have been watered down. XM meets the needs with great programming and a great variety of formats.

One new format that is of particular service is the new traffic reporting for major metropolitan areas. In just a few seconds I can hear the weather and traffic without having to wait for a commercial station to get around to informing me. It also seems that commercial stations are reporting some traffic situations much longer than necessary to hype the traffic report and sponsor. Long after some traffic problems have been cleaned up they are still reporting some as a current problem.

I still listen to local stations. In particular I listen to local talk radio, segments such as Paul Harvey, syndicated national shows, and I enjoy some locally produced financial programs. But XM has become an important part of my daily commute - and the new traffic info is a vital part of that.